existing Gas Turbines, 800/900 MW Gas-based Power Station at Bawana, construction of 400 KV Transmission Ring around Delhi and strengthening of transmisson and distribution network at various voltage levels. DESU has also been allocated 90% share in the National Capital Thermal Power Project (840 MW) and 90 MW share in the Dadri Gas Project (817 MW). DESU would also be entitled to its due share of power from other Central Sector Projects being established in the Northern Region.

GATT report on Environment

*346. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item in the 'Economic Times' of the 17th February, 1992 captioned "Trade and Environment—the GATT Report";

(b) if so, what is Inida's position on the issue of pollution which affects the global commons;

(c) whether Government are aware of a GATT proposal to arrange payment to countries with existing rain and tropical forests; and

(d) what steps have taken by Government to avail of such funding through GATT to preserve various forests and the biosphere?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d) Government is aware of the news item regarding the GATT Secretariat study on Trade and Environment. The study expresses the view that there is a need for multilateral cooperation to minimise potential trade frictions and to identify and implement effective solutions to regional and global environmental problems, including that of pollution affecting the global commons. In GATT discussions on trade and environment, India has supported the view that environmental issues should be addressed through the evolution of multilateral agreements in the appropriate fora and not through unilateral action or use of trade measures.

The Study expresses the view that a country with a low ratio of carbon emissions per hectare of forests is effectively exporting "carbon absorption services" to the rest of the world free of charge. Since it is not paid for these services, the country has little or no incentive to take such services into account in deciding on the optimal management of its forest resources. The GATT Secretarial Study contains the suggestion that some form of international agreement and possible compensation to lower income countries which are home to large forests needs to be considered. This suggestion does not have any formal status in the GATT and there is no proposal to arrange payment to countries with existing rain and tropical forests under consideration of the GATT CONTRACTING PARTIES. As such, there is no question of the Government taking steps to avail of funding through GATT for this purpose.

देश में बौद्ध तीर्थ स्थलों का विकास

*347. **श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह:** क्या **नागर विमानन और पर्यटन** मंत्री 25 फरवरी, 1992 को राज्य सभा में अतारांकित प्रश्न 19 के दिये गये उत्तर को देखेंगे और यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि देश में कौन-कौन से बौद्ध तीर्थ स्थल हैं तथा वे कहां-कहां स्थित हैं और सरकार ने उनके विकास के लिए कौन-कौन सी योजनायें बनायी हैं?

नागर विमानन और पर्यटन मंत्री (श्री माधवराव सिंधिया): देश में महत्वपूर्ण बौद्ध तीर्थ केन्द्रों की एक सूची संलग्न है। **(नीचे देखिए)**

किसी राज्य में पर्यटन का विकास करने की जिम्मेवारी मुख्यता राज्य सरकार की है। तथापि, पर्यटन को बढ़ावा देने के लिए केन्द्रीय पर्यटन विभाग, राज्य सरकारों द्वारा प्रस्तुत किए गए विशिष्ट प्रस्तावों के लिए, उनके गुण-दोष, पारस्परिक प्राथमिकताओं और धन की उपलब्धता पर निर्भर करते हुए वित्तीय सहायता देता है। इस मानदण्ड के आधार पर, पर्यटक अभिरूचि के स्थानों पर, जिनमें बौद्ध अभिरूचि के स्थान भी सम्मिलित हैं, पर्यटक संबंधी आधारभूत सुविधाओं की वृद्धि करने और सुदृढ़ बनाने के लिए वित्तीय सहायता दी गई है।